

where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JOEL COTTON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the accomplishments of Mr. Joel Cotton, a high school teacher in Rifle, CO.

Mr. Cotton is 1 of 100 teachers and 100 students from across the United States to be awarded a Tandy Technology Scholar prize. These scholars were chosen for the excellence in computer science, math, and science.

Mr. Cotton has worked diligently to educate his students by using innovative classroom techniques. He has written his own math programs, including Design a Ranch and Gliding Through Algebra on Mountain Bikes. He has also been named Colorado Teacher of the Week twice, and also teaches computer science at the Colorado Mountain College.

He plans to unselfishly use his prize money to purchase a more powerful computer and software, to design new programs for teaching computer science and math.

Mr. Cotton is a dedicated professional, and the children of the Third Congressional District will be better off because of him.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALL-PUERTO RICAN 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment that fought in the Korean war.

The 65th regiment, nicknamed the "the Borinqueneers" became one of the most decorated units during the Korean conflict. One hundred twenty-five soldiers of the 65th were awarded the Silver Star and four received the Distinguished Service Cross.

The heroism of the 65th brought the unit admiration and accolades from our Nation's highest-ranking military officers. The most famous and important letter came from General Douglas MacArthur.

The 65th had been ordered to do reconnaissance behind the enemy front lines and re-

cated to the command post of the Third U.S. Infantry Division. One night the command post was attacked by more than one thousand North Korean regulars who had penetrated U.S. lines without detection. The 65th was alerted to the threat and went into action to protect vital U.S. supply lines. Their quick reaction enabled them to counter and destroy the North Korean force, thereby saving the Third Division Commander, staff and troops from being captured or killed.

In response to the actions of the 65th, General MacArthur, who had rejected the 65th for combat in World War II, wrote in 1951:

The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea by valor, determination and a resolute will to victory give daily testament to their invincible loyalty to the United States and the fervor of their devotion to those immutable standards of human relations to which Americans and Puerto Ricans are in common dedicated. They are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we might have many more like them.

Other triumphs of note for the 65th were the rescue of the First Marine Division from Hagaru-ri where the division had been surrounded by Chinese military forces. The 65th provided a safe corridor for the Marines to escape and formed the protective rear guard on their road to Hungnam.

In his book, "Puerto Rico's Fighting 65th Infantry," Brigadier General W.W. Harris (Ret.) writes:

I have not encountered any people more dedicated and zealous in support of the democratic principles for which the United States stands. Many Puerto Ricans have fought to the death to uphold them.

General Harris commanded the 65th during the Korean War.

On March 29, 1996, at Puerto Rican Affirmation Day ceremonies in Washington, thousands of people gathered at the Vietnam Memorial to pay tribute to veterans of Puerto Rican heritage and in particular to the 65th Infantry that fought so courageously in the Korean war. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown praised the 65th, much as Generals MacArthur and Harris had in the 1950's.

So today, I rise to pay tribute to these valiant soldiers for democracy and freedom and to honor their contributions to our Nation and to the people of Puerto Rico. The memory of the 65th Infantry should never be allowed to fade.

HELP DECISIONMAKERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following excerpts from essays by Colorado students who participated in the first essay contest sponsored by the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers. Their theme was, "Help Decisionmakers Understand the Importance of Learning Another Language." Students from kindergarten

through university level participated. I commend these students for their efforts.

"Learning a foreign language weakens barriers that some use to justify resentment."—Karin Wangberg, grade 11, Aurora

"By learning another language, you can discover a whole new world."—Anne Cook, grade 8, Littleton

"Many of today's stereotypes and hostilities between nations lie in a misunderstanding and lack of appreciation for cultures outside of one's own. Learning a foreign language inspires a respect and an understanding of each other's uniqueness."—Tiffany Shea Wine, college student, Federal Heights

"It is good to know how to speak another language to help others who don't know your language. You can teach other people too and they could help other people."—Heaven Tapia, grade 2, Denver

"I think kids should get a good education, and foreign languages are part of a good education. It is just as important as math, writing and spelling, etc. It is fun, interesting, exciting and educational."—Caroline Lea, grade 4, Lakewood.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER MOUSHEGH MARDIROSSIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday May 3, 1996, in Los Angeles the Right Reverend Father Moushegh Mardirossian, Locum Tenens was elected as Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America. I wish to add my sincere congratulations to Prelate Mardirossian upon his elevation.

Prelate Mardirossian studied at the Armenian Seminary of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. Upon graduation from the clerical college of the seminary in June 1974 he was ordained deacon.

He served in the Catholicosate as vice sacristan-sexton and secretary to Catholicos Khoren I and Catholicos Karekin II in the chancery. In the seminary he served as administrator and an educator, while teaching courses.

In 1979, he was assigned pastor to the Armenian Community of Thessalonika of Greece. When in Thessalonika, he attended classes in Greek language and philosophy at the Aristotelian University.

For his thesis on a translation and critical analysis of John's Gospel, he earned a doctorate of the Armenian Church, in December 1979.

Beginning in 1982, he served as assistant to the Prelate and held pastoral positions in the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America. In recognition of his service, in 1987, he was elevated to the rank of Father Superior and was ordained. In the same year, he was assigned to the post of dean of the Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church of Orange County.

With the Western Prelacy he has been a member of the National Representative Assembly and member and chairperson of the Religious Council. Since 1991, he has served as vicar general to the Prelate.